From The Principal

In this final Newsletter of the short first term I thank all staff, students and families for your contribution to St Bernard’s. I wish you well for the holiday period and hope your family has the opportunity to celebrate the liturgical feast of Easter. The celebration of Easter is the most hope filled time of the liturgical year. It is a time of celebration of life over death, of hope over hopelessness.

Damian McKee has contributed the majority of the Principal’s section of this newsletter. Damian’s reflections below are timely during the Lenten period of self-reflection and selflessness as we prepare for Easter. Project Kenya offers a practical opportunity for this selflessness through a focus on the needs of others:

“Two weeks ago I was privileged to travel to Kenya for a reconnaissance trip in preparation for our Immersion experience to Embulbul in July with eight Year 11 students and Ms Chanette Glynn. I understand that this was only one week within the community, however, it hit me that this type of experience was very different from the experiences that I had as a tourist previously, moving from one country to the next, camera at the ready. Back then I was able to simply change my plans if I felt uncomfortable in a community that placed me out of my ‘comfort zone’. This was different. To live within a community you get a much better sense of what the community’s needs are. You also get to know the people and enjoy the richness of their welcome and warmth of their friendship. Kenya, and Embulbul specifically, is truly an amazing place.

On the Wednesday morning I accompanied Br Paul on his weekly pastoral visit to the homes of the Form One (Year 7) students. This particular week we visited the home of Evelyn (pictured above) who is 14 years of age and has three brothers and two sisters. Her mother has been separated from her husband since Evelyn was an infant and she receives no financial support whatsoever from her family network. It was truly a humbling experience to be invited into Evelyn’s home - a home that was basically a room not much bigger than our own bedroom with a curtain separating the sleeping area. The home itself was a tin shack with a sheet of tin separating each adjoining home. The landlord provides electricity to the residents via an extension cord and he may switch off access to the power during the day and during some nights if the tenants use too much of it, particularly if it is cool. Evelyn’s Mum pays the landlord 2,000 shillings ($25) per month for rent. This sounds reasonable for us, however her income is dependent on her erratic employment at a local Vet clinic where she washes clothes and cleans for an average six months of the year. For one month’s work she receives 4,000 shillings ($50).

Evelyn is not a sponsored student. I was amazed when she told me this. Evelyn aspires to be a doctor and I shadowed her during one of my days at the school and it is incredible to see the dedication of the students to their studies. They see education as a way out of poverty.

During the visit Evelyn’s mother broke down and cried when she was asked how she is able to provide food for the children when she has such a small income. She puts aside 50 shillings (75 cents) here, 50 shillings there so that she can pay for Evelyn’s education. It was impossible to continue the conversation without becoming emotional and feeling an incredible weight of responsibility for Evelyn’s family. I say this because we can choose to assist Evelyn and the many children that live in similar circumstances that are not sponsored. To sponsor Evelyn’s education for one year is $380 - a little more than $1 a day. Our community provides sponsorship for some 170 students in the school. This is an amazing level of support from the St Bernard’s Community and on behalf of the school I would like to thank all families who sponsor the children of Embulbul.

On Wednesday May 2, our students will take part in our annual walkathon to raise funds for the Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre, the school that Evelyn attends. We are aiming to raise $60,000, which is a significant increase from the $45,000 raised last year. At the conclusion of this newsletter you will also find a sponsorship form that will enable you to be involved in the sponsorship of a student at the school. I look forward to your support of this worthwhile project and event”. - Damian McKee

In the lead up to Edmund Rice Day early in Term 2, I hope that all families will take up the challenge to focus on the needs of the community at Embulbul. St Bernard’s is the source of hope, opportunity and new life for this community.

In writing of selflessness and the needs of others I am reminded of one story told of Jim Stynes last week. I believe that he spent time packing his clothes into boxes hoping that it would save his family this distressing task later. What a wonderful example of awareness of the needs of others.

On a more pragmatic note I wish the College Athletics team well in their quest for a 10th successive Associated Catholic Colleges title next week. On the subject of athletics, congratulations to Jack Avolino on breaking the U/16 1500m and Open 3000m athletic records in recent weeks. His open record of 8.56 at the National titles bettered Peter Mulkearn’s time of 8.59 set in 1983. Jack also did tremendously well at the State and National Titles recently finishing 3rd in the 1500m and 1st in the 3000m at state level and 5th in the 1500m and 3rd in the 3000m at national level.

I remind all boys that they are expected in full and correct winter uniform from the start of Term Two. Those boys who have earned honour pockets are asked to deposit blazers with the Uniform Shop prior to the end of term. They will be available for collection on the first day of Term 2.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch
From The Clairvaux Campus Director

2012 VCE Goals

In the past weeks our Year 12 teachers have met to unpack the VCE results of 2011. This has been an invaluable experience as individual subject results were examined in great detail. Data such as the performance of each question on the end of year examination will lead us to a greater understanding of where to focus the learning for 2012.

It is timely to understand that the VCE is a competition against all students who have elected to embark on this course of study. Most courses of study consist of 50% internal and 50% external assessment. Once the raw score is finalized, your son will receive a ranking based upon the performance of all other students in Victoria. This ranking then makes up individual study scores and an overall ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank).

Study Scores

In each subject, raw scores are matched to a normal distribution curve with a median study score of 30. This means that:

- 2% of students in the state receive a study score > 45
- 8% of students receive a study score > 40
- 16% of students receive a study score > 37
- 24% of students receive a study score > 35
- 50% of students receive a study score > 30

All data indicates that our students are capable of performing above state level. We have set the 2012 academic goal of 34 median and 15% above study scores of 40.

Change to Drinking Laws

Vic Health have written to me as a Deputy Principal asking me to inform parents of Senior students that on November 1, 2011, the Law changed to make it illegal to serve alcohol to anyone under 18 years, unless their parents have given permission. Adults who break the law face fines over $7,000 - the same as a licensee would be fined for selling alcohol to a minor.

The law is part of the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 (the LCRA), which also regulates the sale of alcohol in all licensed premises such as bottle shops, pubs and clubs to people under 18.


Paul Shannon, Clairvaux Campus Director

From The Strand Campus Director

World’s Greatest Shave

Once again we have had an overwhelming level of support from our incredible community. The Shave (pictured above and below) was a great success and I would like to acknowledge the following boys who raised in excess of $100 each for the Leukemia Foundation:

- Jyle Fuller 8E - $504
- James Probyn 9F - $450
- Lawrence Eastman 7D - $438
- Toby Beazley 7C - $417
- Michael Cesile 9H - $293
- Nicholas Cugnetto 7E - $265
- James Travaglini 8F - $250
- Michael Cesile 9H - $246
- Ben Hinkley 9C - $216
- Gianni Farfaglia 8H - $155
- Liam Healy 9B - $150
- Caleb Thompson-Fraser 7H & Andrew Sernio 7E - $130
- Luke Martelli 8D - $128
- Sheran De Silva 8D, Angus Catoggio 7G, Matthew Conversano 8J, James Duggan 7J, Liam Hart-Hobson 7G - $100

ACMA Cyber Safety

On Tuesday April 17 our Year 7 students will take part in a Cyber Safety session conducted by the Australian Communications and Media Authority. Staff will also receive professional development on this ever moving social issue and there will be a parent forum in our College Auditorium from 7.30pm – 9.00pm on the same day.

Dates to Remember on The Strand

- Tuesday March 27 – Year 7 Immunisation.
- Wednesday March 28 – Year 7 excursion to ACC athletics
- Wednesday March 28 - Year 7 – 9 students finish 12.40pm
- Wednesday March 28 - PST Interviews 2.00pm – 8.00pm
- Monday April 16 – First day of Term 2
- Tuesday April 17 – ACMA Cyber Safety Day
- Wednesday April 18 – 8E & 8F retreat
- Tuesday April 24 – 8G & 8J retreat
- Tuesday May 1 – 8H Retreat
- Wednesday May 2 – Edmund Rice Day (Founder’s Day Walkathon)

Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS - Parent Portal

A reminder to ensure that your student and family details are up to date in the Parent Portal otherwise you will be unable to receive sms messages, view reports or book interview times.

It is also important that you complete the Primary Contact details which are located under the phone/internet section. This will enable our sms system to notify you of your son’s absence or any important information we need to communicate to families.

If you have misplaced your password, but know your family ID, you are now able to retrieve your password from the Portal log in page (see the graphic below...clicking on the Lost Password link on the webpage will send an email containing your password). Your family ID can be found printed on your fee notifications.

If you do not have your family ID, please contact reception to obtain the relevant details.

VCAL News

Both Year 11 and Year 12 VCAL students have had a busy schedule over the last few weeks. Last Friday both classes attended the Formula One Grand Prix Schools Program. Despite the rain we were still able to watch a number of displays including practice sessions for the V8 Supercars and the Formula One cars.

Year 12 Students have just completed the SCOPE Young Ambassador’s program, “See the Person Not The Disability” (pictured) with a day working at Highpoint Industries in Maribyrnong. All students thoroughly enjoyed the day and gained a great insight into how the SCOPE organisation supports disabled employees.

Year 11 Horticulture continues with students preparing garden beds in the KANGAN TAFE orchid (pictured). Great to see this years students getting right into tasks such as weeding, potting, digging holes and mulching.

Tuesday Project afternoons for Year 12 have seen a wide variety of activities including Painting, Furniture Restoration, Mosaic, Music production and even Sushi lessons. Also as a safety precaution, VCAL students have provided an engraving service for Year 10 student calculators.

Looking forward to next term.

Chris Mannix

Year 7 Camp - The Hike

I bounced on the balls of my feet energetically as I stared out at the roughly made mountain track in front of me. Different voices echoed behind me as 7F expressed either their excitement or nervousness in different ways. Some quiet and anxious while others ran around and spoke loudly to mask their feelings. Then as one, the group went silent when the camp organizer and director, Mick, came and stood in front of the grade. While Mick explained safety precautions and the danger of snakes I could hear a kookaburra laugh loudly in the distance and the rustle of leaves in the trees as the gentle breeze changed direction.

Suddenly and without prior notice, Mick turned swiftly and set off at a steady pace into the shadowed track of the bush. The boys stumbled as the silent, competitive feeling inside them empowered them to rush to the front of the group and attempt to reach the mountain lookout first. As the clan of boys went deeper into the forest, the path became steadily darker and overgrown. The canopy of skeletal branches above grew thicker.

I hurried to reach the front of the group and soon realized that there were many breaks and forks in the road. Yet my worries were soon forgotten when I saw Mick stroll confidently through each of the turns without the slightest hint of hesitation.

The realization soon came to everyone that the walkers where divided into groups, the quick and confident people up front, the average kids walking in the middle and the relaxers or strugglers down the back. As everyone walked, Mick talked about the different plants dotted on the edge of the path and warned people not to grab hold of a particular plant smothered in thorns and prickles. After a few falls and pricked hands later, Mick finally announced that the lookout and our destination was within 100 metres and new found energy was surged into the legs of my classmates as we powered up the hill.

The ground suddenly levelled out as we hit the summit of the mountain. We walked through dense bushes and then amazingly we were hit with one of the most spectacular views of our lives.

The first thing I noticed was the rolling hills. They seemed to be some mad creation that a giant that had just mashed out of play-dough and they disappeared into the distance, creating a perfect image. Then an electric green colour found its way into the image and the dull hills turned into a vibrant world of colour and peace. The thick canopy of trees below us knitted together making it near impossible to see the harsh ground below, but we knew all too well that the rock dotted ground was there and that we still had a long and harsh walk back to the camp grounds.

As the grade huddled around on the lookout, Mick told us the story of how the whole area had been destroyed in a bush fire. My imagination roared to life as I wondered how an area as large as this could have been burnt to the ground. All the while the group looked out at the picture perfect view. Then, just as we began to feel like we could look out forever at the hills, Mick announced that we’d better get going. We stood and then slinging our backpacks over our shoulders, we followed him back to the track and began the steep descent down.

Henry Fleming 7F
Victorian Schools Beach Volleyball Champions 2012
The College had success on Mordialloc beach recently competing in the Victorian Beach Volleyball Schools Cup was played out. Our boys brought home a gold, a silver and a bronze. Congratulations to Luke Fletcher and Jameson Trainor (picture left) who won Gold in the Year 10 pairs division defeating Melbourne High School Old Boys in the final. Congratulations also to Alex Ielo and Daniel Allison who won Silver in the Year 11 pairs division, narrowly losing to Maribyrnong College in the final, and Anthony Williams and Mark Sampson, taking the bronze in the same division.

It was a terrific 2 days and all 6 pairs participating played extremely well with Mackenzie Biffin, Joshua Stipic, Mitchell O’Dea, Ryan Lofaro, Pat Kirley, and Zach Bye along with Luke, Jameson, Alex, Daniel, Anthony and Mark doing a terrific job.

ACC Athletics Carnival
The ACC Athletics Carnival kicked off on Thursday 22nd March with the Under 13 & Under 14 Field Events taking place at the new Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park. After 10 events St Bernard’s sits in second place, 12 points behind Parade. The main day will held on Wednesday 28th March and we wish Head Coach Gerard Brown, staff and students all the best in their quest for a 10th successive ACC title in a row. Good luck to all involved next Wednesday and if you are free on the day please come along and support the team.

Craig Osborne, Director of Sport

Uniform Shop
Please note the Uniform Shop will not be open Thursday March 29 due to a Development Day for College staff.

Renee Buhagiar

St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary Annual Ladies Luncheon
St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary Annual Ladies Luncheon is to be held on Wednesday 6 June at Ascot House, Ascot Vale. Invitations and Ticket Order Forms are available online at the Ladies Auxiliary website http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au/groups/la/la.php

Sharon Dodoro, President St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary

College Foundation Hall of Fame Dinner
The annual Hall of Fame dinner will be held at The Australian Club, 110 William St, Melbourne, on Friday 20 April beginning at 7pm. This year we will be inducting a further three people into our Hall of Fame - Mr Ches Baragwanath, Fr Lou Heriot and Mr Peter McMahon. We will also be elevating the Hon Geoff Eames to Legend status. The cost is $110 all inclusive and to purchase a ticket or further information please contact Michael Perrett on 9289 1106 or at mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au

Mediterranean Fiesta
Moonee Valley has a long history of migration from European countries located on the Mediterranean Sea, in particular from Italy. Now in its third year, the vibrant contribution that these communities have made to the city will again be the focus of this community event which celebrates the traditions of Mediterranean music, food, art, dance and culture.

Don’t miss this wonderful occasion to join your neighbours and celebrate our diverse cultural heritage with delicious food, dance performances, toe-tapping music, gardening workshops and activities for the kids.

This free event will take place in a piazza style setting at Centreway in East Keilor on Sunday, 25 March from 11am to 4pm. For more information visit www.mvcc.vic.gov.au or call the Arts and Culture team on 9243 8888.

Ace Fun Tennis School - April School Holiday Tennis Clinics
North Park Tennis Club – Gladstone Park Tennis Club – Kensington Banks Tennis Club

WEEK 1: Mon 2nd April – Wed 4th April 2012
Little Joey (4 – 6 years) 9.30am to 11am
Cost 3 days $60 or daily $22
Hot Shots (7 – 17 years) 9.30am to 12.30pm
Cost 3 days $110 or daily $40 Morning Only
Hot Shots (7 – 17 years) 9.30am to 3pm
Cost 3 days $180 or daily $65 All Day

WEEK 2: Wed 11th April – Fri 13th April 2012
Little Joey (4 – 6 years) 9.30am to 11am
Cost 3 days $60 or daily $22
Hot Shots (7 – 17 years) 9.30am to 12.30pm
Cost 3 days $110 or daily $40 Morning Only
Hot Shots (7 – 17 years) 9.30am to 3pm
Cost 3 days $180 or daily $65 All D

For booking or further information please call 0418 178 328, email ttpt@optusnet.com.au or go to www.acefuntennisschool.com
‘PROJECT KENYA’ WALKATHON SPONSORSHIP CARD

All money raised will go towards the completion of the **junior school building** as well as paying for the **education of students** at Br Beausang Catholic Centre Embul-bul, Kenya. All students from Year 7 – 12 will participate in a 10-kilometre walk/run. The route follows the walking track along the banks of the Maribyrnong River. Your support of the day is crucial, both in **participation** and **fundraising**.

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**TOTAL:**
‘PROJECT KENYA’ WALKATHON SPONSORSHIP CARD

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‘PROJECT KENYA’ EDUCATION SUPPORT FORM

‘Project Kenya’ is an initiative begun in 2006 to support the work of the Christian Brothers from Melbourne who are working in Kenya among the poor. The Project has the strong support of St. Bernard’s College in Essendon and a number of parishes in Melbourne, in particular St. Francis Xavier’s parish of Montmorency. The Project supports one school, Br. Beausang Catholic Centre in Embul-bul, Nairobi which began as a centre to feed ‘street kids’ in 2001 and has since, with the hard work and support of the Christian Brothers, become a primary and secondary school that caters for over 600 extremely poor students from the nearby slums. Without the support of ‘Project Kenya’, the school would cease to function.

The Project has three aims:

• to support the poor with an education they cannot afford themselves.
• To support the school with resources and equipment
• To take a group of volunteers each year to work in the school and support the community there.

With the support of international donors, modern buildings have been erected for the secondary school, but the Primary school remains a collection of tin huts with dirt floors and few resources. ‘Project Kenya’ aims to help as many poor people as possible to receive a good secondary education; employment is one of the best ways out of the ‘poverty trap’, and without secondary education, jobs are scarce. More information on the Project can be found on the St. Bernards web site (www.sbc.vic.edu.au), follow the ‘quick link’ to Project Kenya.

If you are interested in being part of this Project, please complete the form below. Donations are tax deductible and receipts for all donations will be issued. Please ensure if you are writing a cheque that it is made out to ‘Christian Brothers Foundation.’

John McKenna

********************************************************************************

‘EDUCATION SUPPORT SCHEME’ FORM FOR 2012

I wish to contribute to the Education Support Scheme at Br. Beausang Catholic Education Centre, Nairobi which includes educational needs and a daily hot meal at $380 for a Secondary student or $200 for a Primary student

NAME: ………………………………………………………………………………………………

ADDRESS: ……………………………………………………………………………………………..

Please debit my credit card for ………. $ ________

Bankcard Mastercard Visa Amex Diners

Card No. ________ ________ ________

Expiry: ________ ________ Signed: ________ ________ Name ________ On Card. ________

Once again your donation is tax deductible and if making out a cheque, please make payable to ‘Christian Brothers’ Foundation’. Please send this tear off slip with and donation to

Mr. John McKenna, ‘Project Kenya’, St. Bernard’s College, 41 Rosehill Road, Essendon 3040
MAKE A TWO HOUR INVESTMENT IN YOUR KIDS’ WELLBEING

Alcohol is by far the most commonly used drug among Victorian young people. Every week, it contributes to accidents, assaults and even deaths among our kids.

So how can you protect your own children in a world awash with alcohol?

Our free community forum will give parents practical, easy to use ways to talk to kids about alcohol, and plenty of ideas about how to keep them safe.

The forums will be presented by Geoff Munro, Australian Drug Foundation and Leigh Bartlett, Barwon Adolescent Taskforce. To register, visit the website: www.teendrinkinglaw.vic.gov.au

Forum dates and venues

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<td>7 – 9pm, 28 March</td>
<td>Oberon High School</td>
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<td>7 – 9pm, 18 April</td>
<td>Gladstone Park Secondary College</td>
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<td>Portland Secondary College</td>
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<td>Vermont Secondary College</td>
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<td>Bairnsdale Secondary College</td>
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